



State of Arizona
Department of Education
Research and Evaluation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter Holders, Principals, and Testing Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Carrie L. Giovannone,
Deputy Associate Superintendent of Research & Evaluation
Lee McIlroy
Director of Accountability, Research & Evaluation

DATE: April 5, 2012

SUBJECT: **IMPORTANT. Deadlines/Timetable for 2012 Test Results, A-F Letter Grades, AMOs and AMAOs. (REF: RE12002-E)**

This memo is to inform you of the timetable for the release of all state and federal deliverables and to advise you of other important dates for the Fiscal Year 2012 accountability season. This timetable also includes dates for the availability of aggregate AIMS test scores, deadlines for substantive appeals and due dates for applications for alternative school status.

It is critical that you meet the deadlines stated in the table below because the ADE will only be offering one window to make SAIS ID corrections for AZELLA and AIMS or to submit 15-915 applications. Please note that all deadlines are at 5:00 p.m. MST.

Research & Evaluation will distribute another memo to you the week of April 9, 2012 that summarizes State Board-approved changes to the A-F accountability system and recently passed legislation pertaining to state accountability for 2012.

Embargoed Documents/Data: Aggregate AIMS results and preliminary and final A-F Letter Grades *remain embargoed* and are not to be shared with the public until public release by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). This embargoed information may only be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis. Test score results for individual students may be shared with the students, parents, teachers, and other staff who need to make educational decisions related to specific students.

Data Corrections Process: The Common Logon AZ LEARNS/Adequate Yearly Progress application reports will be refreshed once a week with the latest data available in SAIS. *Every Wednesday morning, as of the date of this memo, any corrections made in SAIS will be reflected in the Graduation Rate Cohort Report, Student Counts Report, and SAIS ID Corrections Application.*

Appeals Process: The *Appeals Application* on the Common Logon is meant only for substantive appeals for *preliminary* A-F Letter Grades or preliminary Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs).



Substantive reasons for an appeal involve those circumstances outside of an entity's control that adversely affected student performance on AIMS and AZELLA. Entities may not appeal the A-F formulae. The appeal needs to indicate clearly whether it is related to the A-F Letter Grade or the AMAO. Substantive appeals submitted via email will not be accepted and will not be included in the appeals process.

Statistical appeals *are no longer accepted via the Appeals Application*. Instead, we are providing a *Data Corrections Window* (please refer to the dates provided below) for SAIS corrections to AZELLA, all ELL-related data and for AIMS SAIS ID corrections. All data corrections must be done via SAIS file upload, SAIS Online, or the SAIS ID corrections application, and do not require notification being sent to ADE. **All deadlines are at 5:00 p.m. MST. Please make sure all data corrections are done well ahead of the deadline.**

AZELLA Test Data Submissions for A-F Letter Grade and AMAOs: AZELLA test data must be received by Pearson no later than April 27, 2012 in order for ELL students to be included in *preliminary* A-F Letter Grade calculations. AZELLA scores submitted to Pearson between April 27, 2012 and May 25, 2012 will not be captured in the preliminary letter grade. However, these scores will be included in the final A-F Letter Grade calculations.

AYP/AMO Update: The ADE is currently working with the USDOE on a new AMO as part of the request for ESEA flexibility. We are negotiating with the USDOE on a transitional AMO for the 2011-2012 school year until the proposed AMO submitted in the ESEA waiver is operationalized. The dates relating to AMO's provided below should be considered tentative until a final decision with the USDOE is reached. Further details will be provided as they become available. (*Note that the requirements for AMAOs under Title III have not been changed.*)

Alternative School Status: As of the date of this memo, ADE will be accepting applications for alternative school status for the 2012 A-F Letter Grades. The deadline for applications is given below. For a description of the criteria a school needs to meet to be deemed an alternative school, please refer to the AZ LEARNS Technical Manual available on the ADE website at <http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/az-learns-technical-manuals/>.

Schools wishing to apply for alternative school status must email an application letter and supporting evidence to the ADE at achieve@azed.gov. Supporting evidence should consist of documentation such as mission statements, charters, and public information indicating that it is the school's sole mission to serve students listed in the definition. The report card for a school applying for alternative status under A-F accountability must state that it is an alternative school in the "School Mission and Goals" section of the report card. Failure to do so may result in the school's application being denied. Schools already granted alternative status need not reapply. Schools may apply to have their alternative status revoked.

Important Notes: The last date to submit 15-915 requests to School Finance for *prior* Fiscal Year data corrections for inclusion in accountability calculations is June 4, 2012. Additionally, please be aware that any data corrections or changes made after June 30, 2012 will **not** be included in final 2012 A-F Letter Grade calculations. Preliminary and/or final A-F Letter Grades will be based upon the data available to the ADE according to the timeframes and due dates outlined in this memo.

Below are the deadlines and release dates for the 2012 Accountability season:

Event	Opening Date	Closing Date	Release Date
Data correction for Graduation and Dropout Rates. The <i>Graduation Rate Cohort Report</i> provides data for the 4-year and 5-year graduation rates as well as the dropout rate. Please take the time to inspect your student information and ensure that program memberships, entry and exit dates, and withdrawal codes are correct and up-to-date. Corrections must be made through SAIS. Prior Fiscal Year data corrections require the submission and approval of 15-915 requests.	March 14, 2012	June 30, 2012	N/A
Data correction for Enrollment Counts and Program Membership. The <i>Student Counts Report</i> application provides rosters of students enrolled at the time of testing. Schools are responsible for testing students on these rosters. Please take the time to inspect the rosters and ensure that program memberships and entry and exit dates are correct and up-to-date. Corrections must be performed through SAIS. As this data is from the current Fiscal Year, 15-915 request submission is not necessary.	March 14, 2012	June 30, 2012	N/A

AZELLA test data submission to Pearson. The AZELLA test data must be <u>received</u> by Pearson no later than the closing date for ELL students to be included in the preliminary A-F Letter Grade calculations and AMAOs. AZELLA scores submitted to Pearson after April 27, 2012 but no later than May 25 2012, will be included in the final A-F Letter Grade calculations and final AMAO calculations.	N/A	April 27, 2012	N/A
SAIS ID Corrections for AIMS Writing, Reading & Mathematics. The <i>SAIS ID Corrections</i> application on the Common Logon allows schools to correct any missing or erroneous SAIS IDs. Students with incorrect SAIS IDs cannot be matched to enrollment and, therefore, will not be counted as tested.	June 4, 2012	June 30, 2012	N/A
Submission of application for A-F alternative school status. To apply for alternative school status a school must submit an application letter and supporting evidence to the ADE by this date. Please note: Alternative school status applies <i>only</i> to A-F Letter Grade accountability.	N/A	May 25, 2012	June 11, 2012
A-F Letter Grade and AMAOs substantive appeals. A school/LEA wishing to appeal its A-F Letter Grade or AMAO based on <u>adverse circumstances outside of its control</u> must submit its appeal during this time period via the Common Logon AZ LEARNS/Adequate Yearly Progress appeals application. Substantive appeals will <u>not</u> be accepted via email and, therefore, not be included in the appeals process.	June 19, 2012	June 30, 2012	N/A
Embargoed AIMS, AIMS 3-8, and Stanford 10 scores available via the ADE Common Logon.	N/A	N/A	June 19, 2012

Public AIMS, AIMS 3-8, and Stanford 10 scores.	N/A	N/A	July 27, 2012
Embargoed Preliminary A-F Letter Grades for all schools and LEAs available on the Common Logon. Please note: Preliminary A-F Letter Grades DO NOT reflect final letter grades. Any data corrections made between the release of preliminary and final letter grades may cause changes to the final letter grade.	N/A	N/A	June 19, 2012
*Embargoed Preliminary AMO determinations for all schools and LEAs available on the Common Logon. Please note: Appeals will not be accepted for AMO determinations.	N/A	N/A	June 19, 2012 (tentative)
Embargoed Preliminary AMAO determinations for all LEAs available on the OELAS application of the Common Logon.	N/A	N/A	June 19, 2012
Embargoed Final A-F Letter Grades for all schools and LEAs available on the Common Logon.	N/A	N/A	July 24, 2012
Public Final AMO determinations for all schools and LEAs available on the ADE public website.	N/A	N/A	July 25, 2012 (tentative)
Public Final A-F Letter Grades for all schools and LEAs available on the ADE public website.	N/A	N/A	July 25, 2012
Final AMAO Determinations available on the OELAS Common Logon application	N/A	N/A	August 1, 2012

*Refer to page 2 for the AYP/AMO update. Schools and LEAs will be notified as soon as a final decision is made on AMOs for the 2011-2012 school year.

We appreciate your attention to these upcoming calendar deadlines as well as your ongoing cooperation. The ADE Research and Evaluation team will be providing you more detailed information, directions for completing applications and reminders regarding each of the events outlined in this memo

as the deadlines approach. ***Share this information with appropriate district and school staff, as necessary.***

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the ADE Research and Evaluation section at 602-542-5151 or email achieve@azed.gov.

For information regarding the 15-915 request submission, please contact your LEA Account Analyst in School Finance. You can find your Account Analyst by visiting this page:
<http://www.azed.gov/Administrators/SF/Lists/LEAAccountAnalysts/AllItems.aspx>.

For AMAO information, please contact Hildie Cohen, OELAS Research Associate at 602-542-5151 or AMAO@azed.gov.

For AIMS-A questions, please contact Audra Ahumada, AIMS-A Coordinator at 602-542-4061
Audra.Ahumada@azed.gov.

If you have issues accessing the Common Logon or the AZ LEARNS/Adequate Yearly Progress application, please contact ADE Support: 602-542-7378 or Enterprise@azed.gov.